THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) There is no such proposal at present.

The Royal Rajasthan on wheels

80. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL:
SHRI OM PRAKASH MATHUR:
Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Rajasthan Tourism Development Corporation (RTDC) has recently launched a luxury train 'The Royal Rajasthan on Wheels' costing Rs.90,000/- per night, for tour of Rajasthan;

(b) if so, the details thereof, capacity-wise and the details of expenditure incurred by Indian Railways and State Government thereon;

(c) whether it is a fact that rates fixed are exorbitant and it is most expensive train travel in world;

(d) whether "Zero Booking" was reported for second trip and only 23 passengers availed of first trip; and

(e) if so, what are reasons for such a poor start which lead to indefinite stoppage of train?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Indian Railways in association with Rajasthan Tourism Development Corporation (RTDC) has recently launched the luxury train Royal Rajasthan on Wheels. It has a capacity of 82 persons on twin sharing basis. The estimated expenditure incurred by the Railways and RTDC on the project are Rs. 12.50 Cr. and Rs. 27.50 Cr. respectively. The current tariff for the deluxe suit are US$ 699 per person per night on twin sharing basis and US$ 1099 per person per night for single occupancy basis. The tariff for super deluxe suite, which are only 2 out of the total 41 suites, is US$ 2000 per night.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) This train has been launched only recently and such trains take time to get established in the market. The operation of the train has not been stopped indefinitely though there has been cancellation of some trips.

Stoppage of trains

81. KUMAR DEEPAK DAS: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether in view of the tourism and historical importance and increased number of passengers in the sub-division headquarters of Bajali and Bijni, the railway stations of Bijni and Pathasala would be provided with stoppage of the South bound and North bound trains along with upgradation of facilities at those two stations;

(b) whether stoppage of North East Express and Puri Express would be made in Barpeta Road railway station; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) At present, there is no proposal for provision of stoppage of South bound and North bound trains at Bijni and Pathshala.

Minimum essential amenities (MEA) as per norms have already been provided at Bijni and Pathshala stations. Further, progress of upgradation works at Bijni and Pathshala stations is as under:

(i) Bijni- Improvement of station building and waiting hall/room (Cost Rs. 29.90 lakh) is planned for completion by 31st March 2009.

(ii) Pathshala- (a) Improvement of station building and waiting hall/room (Cost Rs. 29.90 lakh) is planned for completion by 31st March 2009 and (b) work of extension of platforms to accommodate longer trains (Cost Rs. 30 lakh) recently completed.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) The matter has been examined but has not been found feasible.

Strengthening the RPF

82. SHRI M.V. MYSURA REDDY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the measures taken or proposed to be taken to strengthen the Railway Protection Force in view of the terrorist attack at Chhatrapati Shivaji Terminal;

(b) whether there are any plans to increase the number of RPF battalions;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether it is not a fact that in view of the lack of proper training facilities to RPF personnel and also in the absence of having a special academy for providing modern security system, the security at railway station is not up to the mark; and

(e) if so, the reasons why his Ministry cannot set up special academies in the country to train RPF and RPSF?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Various measures have been taken to strengthen the Railway Protection Force. Important details are as under:-

(i) An Integrated Security System is being installed at all Railway Stations of four Metro cities *viz* Chennai, Delhi, Kolkata and Mumbai and 140 other vulnerable / sensitive stations of Indian Railways. This system will comprise of the following broad areas:-

1. Internet protocol based CCTV System with video analytics.

2. Access control.

3. Personal and baggage screening system.